

August 27, 2008

Dear Valley Medical School Supporters,

I want to share with you an opinion piece that I wrote for the central valley newspapers regarding my support for developing a medical school for the University of California at Merced. By the year 2015, California will face a shortage of 17,000 physicians statewide. The University recently received approval from the UC Board of Regents to continue planning for the medical school. This is encouraging news for both the San Joaquin Valley and State of California.

The University of California, Merced administrators have been planning for the development of a medical school for nearly four years. The proposed UC Merced School of Medicine, which revolves around community partnerships and a distributed model utilizing existing hospitals and clinics in the Valley communities, will be research-intensive with a special emphasis on population health. The school will have a focus on training physicians who are committed to serving the Valley, particularly those from groups who are traditionally underrepresented in medicine.

In short, a medical school at UC Merced will further expand higher education opportunities in the Central Valley, respond to the critical physician shortage, and address health issues specific to the region as well as provide a much needed economic boost for the area.

The time has come for us to make the proposed medical school a priority by providing the necessary resources for the project. I intend to continue to work with my fellow Central Valley legislators to seek continued funding to serve as "planning resources" to establish the medical program.

I am committed to advancing this cause and I hope you will join me in urging my fellow state legislators, the governor, the UC Board of Regents and other decision makers involved in the process to do the same.

Sincerely,

CATHLEEN GALGIANI  
Assemblymember, 17<sup>th</sup> District